

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14 to further clarify the subject matter of the present invention. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found, for example, in original claim 11. Support for the amendment to claim 14 may be found for example, in original claims 17 and 19. Claims 11, 17 and 19 were cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 18 was amended to correct claim dependency. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action Summary lists claims 8-9 as withdrawn from consideration. Applicants request correction of the Summary, as claims 8-9 were cancelled in a previous response. Moreover, the Office Action states in section 3 that claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), although claim 20 has been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants respectfully request correction of this error.

For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

II. The Rejection Of Claims 1-6, 8-11 And 13-19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Modi (USP No. 6,241,244) in view of Official Notice. As such, the Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

One feature of amended claim 1 of the present disclosure is a discriminating unit that stores discriminatable range information. The discriminatable range information includes a range of country sort information indicating country sorts of paper currency discriminatable in

the discriminating unit and a range of money sort indicating money sorts discriminatable in the discriminating unit. Each of a plurality of cassettes stores cassette information. The cassette information includes the cassette sort and the country sort information. On the other hand, a control unit stores operation information for operating an automated teller machine. The stored operation information is set prior to operation of the automated teller machine and contains country sort information indicating an area of paper currency which the automated teller machine should handle and cassette structural information indicating structure of a cassette for paper currency arranged with the automated teller machine. The cassette structural information includes cassette sort of a cassette for paper currency to be arranged with the automated teller machine, country sort information of paper currency to be received in the cassette, and money sort indicating a money sort of the paper currency to be received in the cassette.

Another feature of claim 1 is a control unit which acquires the discriminatable range information from the discriminating unit and the cassette information from the cassettes, both being set to the automated teller machine. The control unit judges as to whether the acquired discriminatable range information and the acquired cassette information are located within a range of the operation information stored in the control unit. The control unit can operate the automated teller machine by judging whether the operation information set to operate the automated teller machine coincides with a range of paper currency treated in the discriminating unit and the cassette actually mounted on the automated teller machine.

In contrast to the present disclosure, Modi teaches a very general recycling automated banking machine which only discriminates deposit paper currency and stores in a storage area, or pays out paper currency. It is alleged that Modi teaches a discriminating unit as is recited in claim 1, in col. 1, lines 18-19 and col. 2, lines 18-53. This allegation is incorrect. Nowhere in the

cited passages is there any teaching or description that the identification device of Modi stores discriminatable range information as recited in claim 1. Rather, the only description of the identification device of Modi is in col. 11, lines 11-22. In this passage, it is shown that the identification device 88 identifies a currency. However, the identification device 88 fails to disclose discriminatable range information.

Moreover, Modi fails to teach the cassette as is recited in claim 1. It is alleged that Modi teaches a plurality of cassettes for storing a currency, with the currency being transferred between a cassette and the currency deposit/withdrawal port via the discriminating units. (col. 1, lines 18-19, col. 3, lines 55-67 and col. 4, lines 30-45 of Modi). However, the cited passages of Modi fail to disclose cassette information as recited in claim 1.

In addition, it is alleged that Modi teaches a control unit for storing operation information used to operate the teller machine as described in claim 1 of the present disclosure (see, col. 3, lines 16-67, col. 4-5 and col. 9, lines 43-64). Modi does teach that the control system 30 determines the type of documents to be stored in each of the canisters 92-98. However, the cited passages do not disclose whether the operation information stored by the control unit coincides with the discriminatable range information stored by the mounted discriminating unit and the cassette information stored by the mounted cassette.

Furthermore, nowhere in Modi is there any teaching or suggestion that the control unit acquires, from the cassette, the cassette information stored in the cassette and, from the discriminating unit, the discriminatable range information stored in the discriminating unit. Moreover, Modi also fails to teach whether or not the acquired cassette information and the

acquired discriminatable range information are located within a range of the operation information stored in the control unit.

Thus, Modi fails to teach or suggest each of the limitations of claim 1.

Amended claim 14 contains the features of a currency deposit/withdraw mechanism equipped with the automated teller machine provided with a main body control unit. The main body control unit stores operation information and the discriminating unit and cassette mounted on the currency deposit/withdraw mechanism store the discriminatable range information and the cassette information the same as that of the control unit as claimed in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, as is discussed above, Modi fails to disclose each and every limitation of amended claim 14 of the present disclosure.

Moreover, Official Notice has not been taken of any of the above noted limitations.

In order to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. As is clearly shown, Modi does not disclose the discriminating unit, control unit or cassettes as described in amended claims 1 and 14 of the present disclosure. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Modi does not render claims 1 and 14 of the present invention obvious and as such, claims 1 and 14 are patentable and allowable over the cited prior art. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 14 be withdrawn.

III. All Dependent Claims Are Allowable Because The Independent Claim From Which They Depend Is Allowable

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are

contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as claims 1 and 14 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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